

ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES

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June 29, 2007

Mr. Spensin James President College of Micronesia-FSM P. O. Box 159 Kolonia Pohnpei, FSM 96941

Dear President James:

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, at its meeting on June 6-8, 2007, reviewed the Focused Midterm Report submitted by College of Micronesia-FSM. The purpose of this review was to assure that the recommendations made by the evaluation team were addressed by the institution and that the college had also addressed the self-identified plans for improvement which were included in the institutional self study.

The Commission took action to accept the Focused Midterm Report with the requirement that the college complete a Progress Report. The Commission asks that the report be submitted by **October 15, 2008**. The Progress Report should focus on the institution's resolution of the recommendations and the Commission concerns as noted below:

Recommendation #5: Identify and Assess Student Learning Outcomes

The college must develop and implement student learning outcomes across the six sites in order to determine the effectiveness of college programs and services on student learning including

- Instructional programs at course, program, degree and certificate levels (Standards IIA.1c, and IIA.2i),
- Student services throughout the students' matriculation at the college (Standards IIB, IIB.3, and IIB.4),
- Links between student learning outcomes and the planning process (Standard IB),
- Mechanisms for measuring student learning outcomes (Standard IIA.2a), and
- Mechanisms for using those measurements to improve courses, programs, and services (Standards IIA.1c, IIA.2e, and IIA.2f).

Recommendation #6: Create Continuity

The college needs to standardize instruction, student services, learning environments, and quality of instruction across the college's six sites. Specific areas that require greater continuity at this time are:

- The delivery of comprehensive and consistent student services at each of the college's sites (Standards IIB.1, and IIB.3a), and
- The provision of adequate facilities for instruction at all sites; at this time, the college must immediately provide an adequate facility for student learning at the Chuuk site (Standards IIIB.1 and IIIB.1b).

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All issues related to continuity at the college's sites are to be regularly evaluated to establish a cycle of improvement.

<u>Recommendation 8 (from Focused Midterm Report) and Recommendation 2 (from June 2006 Commission Action Letter): Secure Permanent Campus for Chuuk</u>

The college must make significant progress in securing the Chuuk High School campus as the site for COM-FSM's permanent Chuuk state campus or, if it is unable to within its deadline of 2008, find another acceptable site.

Commission Concern 1: Communication

The college should update the Commission on all work done since the Focused Midterm Reports to continue to improve communication, providing evidence of those efforts. The college should systematically evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to facilitate a cycle of continued improvement of communication.

The Focused Midterm Report will become part of the accreditation history of the college and should be used in preparing for the next comprehensive evaluation. The Commission requires that you give the report and this letter appropriate dissemination to your college staff and to those who were signatories of your college report. This group should include campus leadership and the Board of Trustees. The Commission also requires that all reports be made available to students and the public. Placing copies in the college library can accomplish this.

Please note that the next comprehensive evaluation of College of Micronesia-FSM will occur in Spring 2010.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express continuing interest in the institution's educational programs and services. Professional self-regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness and quality.

Sincerely,

Barbara & Bene

Barbara A. Beno, Ph.D. President

BAB/tl

cc: Mr. Joseph Saimon, Accreditation Liaison Officer Board President, College of Micronesia-FSM

Enclosure